[Translation]

Sale of Opium Factory

2284. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding Sale of Opium and Opium poppy (charod) factory of Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to modernise the Gazipur opium factory also on the lines of those of Nimach, opium, opium poppy (charod) factories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

[English]

Banks Loans in U.P.

2285. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan, category-wise extended by various banks in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and in the current year till date; and

(b) the percentage of total loan extended vis-a-vis the total deposits in these banks during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their data base does not generate the information called for.

(b) The Credit Deposit Ratio of scheduled commercial banks for the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year ending March 1994, 1995 and 1996 was 37.2, 35.0 and 34.2 respectively.

Closure of Newsprint Mills

2286. SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of newsprint mills in the country particularly NEPA Ltd., Nepanagar which are lying closed;

(b) the reasons for their closures, mill-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their revival; and

(d) by when the said mills are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). NEPA Ltd., Nepanagar is not in production since 22.8.1996. NEPA Ltd. could not pay the electricity dues of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board and power to the mill was disconnected by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board. The newsprint produced by NEPA Ltd. is not lifted by the newspapers as better quality of imported newsprint is available at comparatively cheaper prices.

The problems of NEPA Ltd. have been discussed with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh recently to explore the feasibility of restarting the operations of the mill.

Investment Fund for PSUs

2287. SHRI TARIO ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create an investment fund for strengthening the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Government have decided in principle to create a fund out of a part of the disinvestment revenues in order to strengthen Public Sector Enterprises.

SEBI

2288. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2590 on August 2, 1996 regarding company registered on over the counter exchange of India and state :

(a) whether the SEBI has since taken a decision in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-bound programme to pursuade the SEBI to decide the matter early?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Board of SEBI has taken a decision on 18.11.1996 to accept a recommendation made by the Dave Committee to exempt companies seeking listing on the OTCEI from the requirement of three year dividend paying record, provided such companies fulfil the listing criteria of OTCEI, viz. sponsorship by a member of OTCEI and appointment of market makers.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.